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Via Electronic and First Class Mail

October 10, 2002

Ms. Joelle Phillips, Esq.
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.
333 Commerce Street, Suite 2101
Nashville, TN 37201-3300

RE: Petition of Tennessee UNE-P Coalition to Open a Contested Case
Proceeding to Declare Switching an Unrestricted Unbundled Network
Element, Docket No. 02-00207

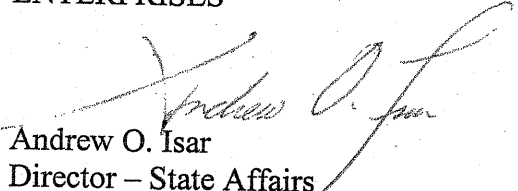
Dear Ms Phillips:

In response to your October 2, 2002 letter regarding whether the Association of Communications Enterprises ("ASCENT") has signed or intends to sign the Protective Order in the above-referenced matter, please be advised that ASCENT has not signed, nor does it intend to sign, the Protective Order. ASCENT recognizes that in not signing the Protective Order, the Association is precluded from receipt of confidential documents.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNICATIONS
ENTERPRISES


Andrew O. Isar
Director - State Affairs

Cc: Henry Walker
Charles Welch